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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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R 231705Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5604
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MORG, GR
SUBJECT: IOANNIDES HARDLINE OFFICERS SUSPENDED

1. MINDEF AVEROFF ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 21 MINISTERIAL DECISION TO SUSPEND 36 ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES " IN INTEREST OF SERVICE." SUSPENSIONS OF 29 ARMY OFFICERS, THREE AF OFFICERS AND FOUR FROM NAVY RANGED FROM FOUR TO TWELVE MONTHS. EMBASSY UNDERSTAND SUSPENDED OFFICERS, WHO IN MAIN REPRESENT HARD-CORE OF BGEN IOANNIDES SUPPORTERS, KEY MEMBERS OF "WATCHDOG" SYSTEM, AND THOSE ACCUSED OF DIRECTING MILITARY POLICE (ESA) OPERATIONS CAN NOW EXPECT RETIREMENT WHEN SUSPENSION ENDS.

2. WHILE MINISTERIAL DECISION DOES NOT SPECIFY REASON UNDERLYING DISCIPLINARY ACTION, DEFMIN AVEROFF COMMENTED THAT OFFICERS WERE PUNISHED FOR REASONS CONCERNING INTEREST OF ARMED SDRVICES. HE ADDED TPAT INITIALLY HE INTENDED TO INCLUDE MANY MORE OFFICERS IN LIUT BUT AFTER STUDY DECIDED TO RESTRICT LIST SINCE OTHERS CLEARLY DESIRE RETURN TO THEIR PROPER DUTIES. RESPONDING TO QUESTION WHY OTHERS REPUTEDLY CLOSE TO IOANNIDES WERE NOT INCLUDED, AVEROFF SAID PERSONS SUCH AS ESA OFFICERS PILIHOS AND PALLINIS DID NOT TAKE PART IN ESA INVESTIGATIONS, INTERROGATIONS
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OR SIMILAR ACTIONS AND SINCE JULY 24 THEIR CONDUCT HAS BEEN

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IRREPROACHABLE. AVEROFF URGED JOURNALISTS NOT TO MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES AND TO WRITE WITH CIRCUMSPECTION ABOUT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WHOM NATION SHOULD RESPECT.

3. LIST OF SUSPENDED OFFICERS INCLUDES LT. COL. THEODOROS THEOFILOYIANNAKOS AND MAJ. ANASTASIOS SPANOS FROM INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH OF ESA; LT. CDR. STAVROS TAVLARIDIS WHO REPORTEDLY ORDERED A CYPRIOT PATROL BOAT TO SHELL THE PAPHOS RADIO STATION DURING ANTI-MAKARIOS COUP; MAJOR GENERAL P. PAPADAKIS, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GUARD; BGEN N. DERTILIS, ALLEGED KEY MEMBER OF NOVEMBER 25 COUP; LT. COL. I. STEIAKIS, MILITARY ATTACHE IN CAIRO; LT. COL. I. MANOUSAKAKIS OF EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN FAME; MAJOR A. PERDIKIS, JUNTA WATCHDOG IN GREEK EMBASSY, LONDON; AND OTHERS. SUSPENDED OFFICERS ARE PRINCIPALLY FROM MIDDLE GRADES BUT INCLUDE ONE MAJOR GENERAL, FIVE BRIGADIERS, ONE AIR FORCE COLONEL, ELEVEN ARMY COLONELS AND TWO NAVY COMMODORES.

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED SEPT. 22 THAT NINETEEN POLICE AND GENDARMERIE OFFICERS WERE SUSPENDED FOR PERIODS OF TWO TO TWELVE MONTHS BY PUBLIC ORDER MINISTER SOLON GHIKAS FOR THEIR "BRUTAL BEHAVIOR" DURING THE MILITARY REGIME. LEADING LIST WERE POLICE CHIEF PAVLOS THEOHAROPOULOS AND GENDARMERIE COLONEL ANGELOS DIMITRIOU WHO ALONG WITH OTHERS ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BLACKENED THEIR NAMES IRREPARABLY IN EYES OF PUBLIC OPINION.

5. COMMENT: MINDEF ACTION TAKES SOME STING OUT OF POPULAR CRY "GIVE THE JUNTA TO THE PEOPLE" HEARD AT ALL PUBLIC RALLIES AND HELPS ASSUAGE BITTER FEELINGS OF THOSE POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHERS WHO SUFFERED TORTURE AND IMPRISONMENT AFTER APRIL 21, 1967 COUP, PARTICULARLY IN EIGHT MONTHS DURING BG IOANNIDES RULE. GOVERNMENT'S ACTION MAY ALSO EASE PRESSURE FOR "DEJUNTAI-ZATION" WHICH POLITICIANS FROM CU AND LEFT WERE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT AS ISSUE IN UPCOMING POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE RETIREMENT OF THESE THIRTY-SIX DOES NOT ELIMINATE MORE DIFFICULT QUESTION FOR GOG OF POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST JUNTA LEADERS PAPADOPOULOS, PATTAKOS, MAKAREZOS AND OTHERS WHO REMAIN ALIVE AND WELL IN GREECE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS06942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740267-0550
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740924/aaaaattk.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IOANNIDES HARDLINE OFFICERS SUSPENDED
TAGS: PORG, MILI, GR, (IOANNIDES), (AVEROFF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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